

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Stearman Aircraft Company Hangar (preferred)

and/or common Building No. 9

2. Location

street & number McConnell Air Force Base N/A: not for publication

city, town Wichita N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Kansas code 20 county Sedgwick code 173

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name United States Air Force, Strategic Air Command

street & number Offut Air Force Base

city, town Omaha N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date N/A ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

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Continuation sheet

Item number 5

Page 1

For entire parcel:

Register of Deeds
Sedgwick County Courthouse
Wichita, Kansas

For specific bldg:

United States Air Force, Strategic Air Command
Offut Air Force Base
Omaha, Nebraska

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stearman Aircraft Company Hangar now known as Building No. 9, McConnell Air Force Base, is located at what was the north end of the old Municipal Airport. It is approximately 1250 feet northeast of the Administration Building. There is a concrete ramp to the south and grass on all other sides. The building has remained virtually unaltered since its construction in 1929, the most obvious change being in the signage.

The single story hangar measures 80 by 140 feet and has a 20 foot lean-to that runs the length of the east side. The lean-to contained offices, stock room, furnace room, and toilet facilities. The brick walls are 13 inches thick and are stuccoed and painted. The roof trusses are of the steel bow string type.

The south facade consists of eight steel and glass sliding hangar doors with a curved parapet wall over them, and buttress-like walls to either side of the hangar doors that are capped with Spanish tiles. Each of the hangar doors is eight feet high and ten feet wide. One of the doors has a metal pass door in it that measures three feet by six feet eight inches. Originally "Stearman Aircraft Co." was lettered above the doors.

The north facade has four tall round arched windows in it and a door at either end. The wall continues up into an arched parapet. "McConnell Aero Club" is painted on the upper part of this wall.

The west facade is punctuated by eight large double-hung industrial sash windows. The east facade has double-hung industrial sash windows above the level of the lean-to. Small buttresses mark the bays on both the east and west facades.

The roof follows the curve of the interior trusses and is surfaced with built-up tar and felt. Originally "Stearman" was painted the length of the roof. Three large ventilator units, not part of the original construction, are located along the roof ridge.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929 Builder/Architect Schmidt, Boucher, & Overend

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stearman Aircraft Company Hangar was one of the original buildings at the old Wichita Municipal Airport. Built in 1929 from plans prepared by the Wichita architectural firm of Schmidt, Boucher and Overend, the hangar incorporated all of the most modern features for buildings of that type. Stearman was a very prominent manufacturer of aircraft and this building served as storage and display area for their aircraft.

The first commercial aircraft manufacturing was begun in Wichita by the Swallow Company in 1919-1920. By 1929 Wichita had eleven firms engaged in aircraft manufacturing and in a wide variety of support industries. In 1929 Wichita's aeronautics industry was undergoing tremendous expansion. It was rapidly becoming a major economic force in the city, and Wichita was becoming a well-known aviation center. In June, 1929, the Wichita Magazine described assets worth hundreds of thousands of dollars of various aviation-related operations in Wichita including the Travel Air Company, Cessna Aircraft, Swallow Airplane Company, and the Swift Company. Stearman was noted as having its own factory buildings and as owning a landing field in conjunction with the Bridgeport Machine Company. The August, 1929, Wichita Magazine reported that "the city is an important point on the leading train-plane system, Transcontinental Air Transport, Inc., is one of the leading revenue-producing cities on the pioneer passenger air line, Western Air Express, with twelve-hour service from Kansas City to Los Angeles; is an operating point for the Central Air Lines division of Universal Air Lines with service throughout the southwest; and has mail and express service through National Air Transportation Company from Dallas to Chicago, and New York."

The property for the Wichita municipal airport was purchased by the park board in 1928, and in 1929 it was being extensively developed. The first building to be built was the municipal hangar. It is no longer standing, but its foundations are visible.

The second permanent facility was the Stearman Aircraft Company hangar, designed by Schmidt, Boucher and Overend. The contractor, Blaser and Vollmer, had begun construction by the beginning of June, 1929, and it was completed by late September. The \$42,000 building contained a shop, women's rest rooms, attendants' quarters, offices and boiler room. The roof of the 20 foot lean-to that ran the length of

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

the east side was a deck, arranged so that spectators could view various events at the municipal airport. The main purpose of the hangar was to store and display aircraft.

The Stearman Company had been formed by Lloyd Stearman, Mac Short and Fred Hoyt in Venice, California, in 1926. They moved the company to Wichita in 1927 and soon built a large factory complex. The Stearman Aircraft Company merged with United Aircraft and Transport Corporation in 1929 but the plant retained its name until 1941. At that time the name was changed to Boeing.

The hangar was used by Stearman for purposes other than sales and storage including maintenance, training of maintenance personnel, and service to transient aircraft. Other later users were Harte Flying Service and various aircraft companies that operated from the municipal airport.

During World War II the facility was leased to provide maintenance support for B-29 and B-47 aircraft. It became Air Force property in 1951 with the federal purchase of the old airport. Around 1960 the hangar was used to store spare parts for the Titan missiles. F-105 aircraft support was provided from 1963-1971. Since then it has been used primarily for storage and maintenance of small civilian aircraft owned by McConnell Aero Club personnel except when emergency conditions prevailed. At those times the Kansas Air National Guard used the hangar.

The building is to be declared surplus by the federal government in the near future.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wichita Eagle. June-Sept., 1929

Wichita Magazine. Sept., 1929; Jan. 1930

Preliminary nomination form submitted by Cletus J. Pottebaum, Colonel,
USAF (Ret)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wichita East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4
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6	5	2	7	1	5	0
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4	1	6	1	6	4	3	1	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

B

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Zone

Easting

Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification That portion of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S12 T28S R1E which the property occupies. This structure occupies its original site at what was the Wichita Municipal Airport, now the McConnell Air Force Base.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

organization Ks. State Historical Society-HPD date September 16, 1982

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913 296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Ex. Director & State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-16-82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

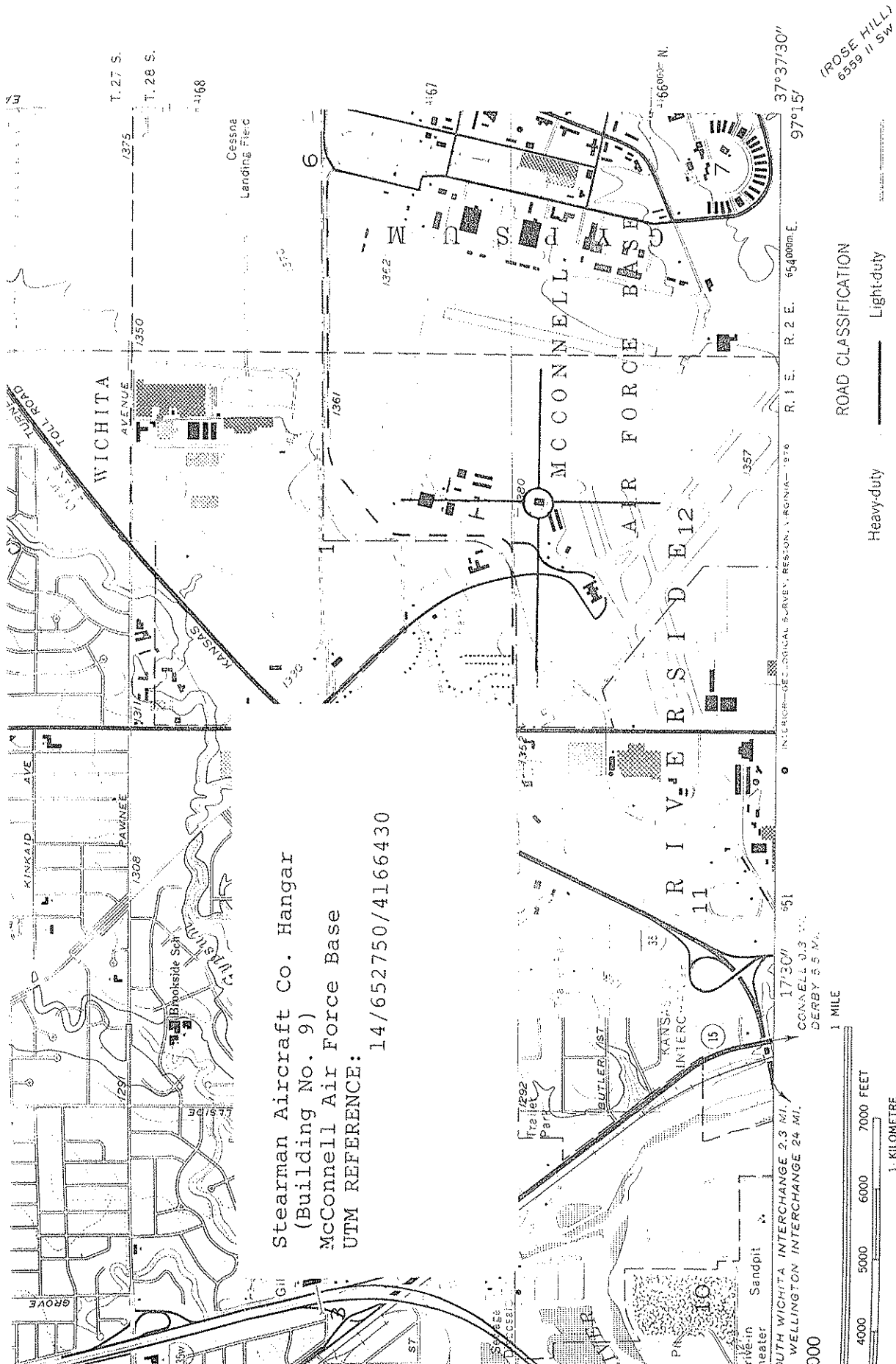
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

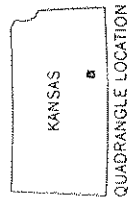


Stearman Aircraft Co. Hangar
(Building No. 9)
McConnell Air Force Base
UTM REFERENCE:

14/652750/4166430

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty
Medium-duty
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WICHITA EAST, KANS.
N3737.5-W9715/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1961

PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
ORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AWREANCE, KANSAS 66044
SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

10 FEET
6-FOOT CONTOURS
AL DATUM OF 1929

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETRE

1 MILE

WICHITA INTERCHANGE 2.3 MI.
WELLINGTON INTERCHANGE 24 MI.

CONNELL 0.3 MI.
DERBY 5.5 MI.

17/30N 951

INTERIOR-GEODIGAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-978

R. 1 E. R. 2 E. 654000m. E.

37°37'30" 97°15'

(ROSE HILL)
6559 11 SW